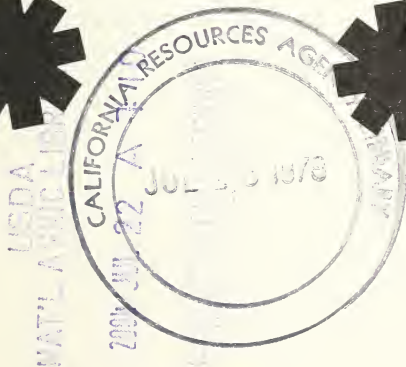
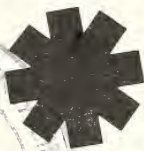


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Chicken Lice: How to Control Them



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



LEAFLET
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Chicken Lice: How to Control Them

Lice irritate chickens, and sometimes kill them. They cause the birds to lose weight. Heavy infestations of lice may reduce egg production as much as 10 to 20 percent.

You can control chicken lice by applying insecticide to the birds and to the interiors of chickenhouses.

Kinds of Lice

Two kinds of lice—bloodsucking and biting—attack animals. Only biting lice attack chickens. The head louse (*Cuclotogaster heterographus*) and the three body lice (*Menacanthus stramineus*, *M. cornutus*, and *M. pallidulus*) are the most common species. The head louse is especially injurious to young birds, and is more difficult to control.

Other biting lice that attack chickens include the following:

Shaft louse (*Menopon gallinae*)

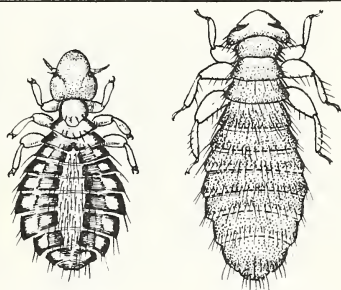
Wing louse (*Lipeurus caponis*)

Fluff louse (*Goniocotes gallinae*)

Large chicken louse (*Goniodes gigas*)

Brown chicken louse (*Goniodes dissimilis*)

The methods outlined in this leaflet for control of lice on chickens are effective against all these lice.



Head louse.

A body louse.

BN-10917

Development

Female lice lay their eggs on a chicken's feathers. A gluey substance holds the eggs in place. They hatch in a few days to 2 weeks.

A newly hatched louse is transparent. As it grows, it molts (sheds its skin) several times, and color comes to its body. It is full grown 2 weeks after hatching.

Adult lice vary in shape and size, according to species. They feed on parts of the feathers and on scales of the skin.

Control

Inspect your flock regularly. Apply an insecticide if the birds are infested with lice.

Several insecticides are effective for delousing chickens. Some can be applied as roost paints; others as sprays, dusts, or dips.

Effective materials include malathion, coumaphos, tetrachlorvinphos, carbaryl, naled, and pyrethrins. *Follow directions on the insecticide container.*

Treating the Birds

When spraying or dusting chickens on wire, apply the insecticide that has directions for such use on the label both over the backs and from beneath to insure effective penetration and coverage. Spray or dust at night when the birds are quiet.

Spray the chickens individually or in groups.

Use a garden sprayer or power sprayer. One gallon of spray should be enough to treat about 100 chickens.

Dusts are ready to use when purchased and can be applied with a shaker can when dusting birds individually. Shake dust into feathers of each bird until the dust reaches the



Parting a chicken's feathers to find lice.

PN-794

skin. Use a plunger- or rotary-type hand duster on the entire flock. One pound of dust should treat 100 chickens.

Chickens may be treated in a dip. Prepare the dip by mixing an emulsifiable concentrate or wettable powder in water. Directions on the label will tell you how to attain the desired strength. Dip only on warm days and wear rubber gloves. Treat each bird separately, as follows:

1. Hold wings over its back, using one hand.
2. Immerse the bird.

3. Remove bird from the dip, allowing excess dip to drain off. Keep each bird in the dip 20 to 30 seconds.

Treating Roosts and Chickenhouse

You can spray, dust, or paint insecticide on roosts and other parts of the chickenhouse.

Spraying

Mix according to directions on the insecticide container.

Apply sprays with a small power sprayer or a garden-type compressed-air sprayer. Spray thoroughly on roosts and other parts of the chickenhouse.

Prepare a roost paint solution by mixing insecticide with kerosene, diesel oil, or water according to the directions on the insecticide container.

Apply with a brush to roosts and other interior parts of the chickenhouse. One pint of the mixture should cover about 150 feet of roost.

Use a dust to treat litter and roosts. Follow directions on the insecticide container.

Use of Pesticides

This publication is intended for nationwide distribution. Pesticides are registered by the Environmental

the pesticide being used or covered by a Pesticide Enforcement Policy Statement (PEPS) issued by EPA.

The optimum use of pesticides, both as to rate and frequency, may vary in different sections of the country. Users of this publication may also wish to consult their Cooperative Extension Service, State agricultural experiment stations, or county extension agents for information applicable to their localities.

The pesticides mentioned in this publication are available in several different formulations that contain varying amounts of active ingredient. Because of this difference, the rates given in this publication refer to the amount of active ingredient, unless otherwise indicated. Users are reminded to convert the rate in the publication to the strength of the pesticide actually being used. For example, 1 pound of active ingredient equals 2 pounds of a 50-percent formulation.

The user is cautioned to read and follow all directions and precautions given on the label of the pesticide formulation being used.

Federal and State regulations



Dusting the birds.

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Spraying the birds.

PN795

Protection Agency (EPA) for countrywide use unless otherwise indicated on the label.

The use of pesticides is governed by the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended. This act is administered by EPA. According to the provisions of the act, "It shall be unlawful for any person to use any registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." (Section 12(a)(2)(G))

EPA has interpreted this section of the Act to require that the intended use of the pesticide must be on the label of

require registration numbers. Use only pesticides that carry one of these registration numbers.

USDA publications that contain suggestions for the use of pesticides are normally revised at 2-year intervals. If your copy is more than 2 years old, contact your Cooperative Extension Service to determine the latest pesticide recommendations.

The pesticides mentioned in this publication were federally registered for the use indicated as of the issue of this publication. The user is cautioned to determine the directions on the label or labeling prior to use of the pesticide.

Precautions

Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to man, animals, and plants. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the labels.

Store pesticides in original containers under lock and key—out of the reach of children and animals—and away from food and feed.

Apply pesticides so that they do not endanger humans, livestock, crops, beneficial insects, fish, and wildlife, or in ways that may contaminate water or leave illegal residues.

Avoid prolonged inhalation of pesticide sprays or dusts; wear protective clothing and equipment if specified on the container.

If your hands become contaminated with a pesticide, do not eat or drink until you have washed. In case a pesticide is swallowed or gets in the eyes, follow the first aid treatment given on the label, and get prompt medical attention. If a pesticide is spilled on your skin or clothing, remove clothing immediately and wash skin thoroughly.

Do not clean spray equipment or dump excess spray material near ponds, streams, or wells.



Spraying interior of chickenhouse.

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Painting the roosts.

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Dispose of empty pesticide containers promptly. Have them buried at a sanitary landfill dump, or crush and bury them in a level, isolated place.

NOTE:

Some States have restrictions on the use of certain pesticides. Check your State and local regulations.



Use Pesticides Safely

FOLLOW THE LABEL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mention of a proprietary product in this publication does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not imply its approval by the Department to the exclusion of other products that may also be suitable.

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